

The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

231

Vol. 1
Page 32

Proceedings
Of Grand Committee of the Legislature of
the State of Vermont, at Charleston,
from the 16th to the 19th of October 1781.
(Transcribed and attested.)

State of Vermont

Charleston, October 16, 1781.

The Governor and Council having joined the General Assembly in a Committee of the whole, to take into Consideration the Report of the Honorable Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, and Bezaleel Woodward, Esquires, who were appointed by the Legislature of this State in the Month of June last, to repair to the American Congress, with powers to propose to, and receive from them, Terms for an Union of this with the United States, &c.

His Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, Esq, in the Chair.
The said Agents laid before the Committee the following Papers, which were read by the Secretary in their order, viz.

1st and 2d. A Copy of their Letter to the President of Congress, of the 14th of August last, inclosing a Duplicate of their Commission.

3d. The Resolution of Congress, of the 7th and 8th of August last.

4th. Brigadier General Bellows and Associates Petition to New Hampshire, 25th May, 1781.

5th. Petition of the Selectmen of Swanzy to New Hampshire, June 9th, 1781.

6th. Honorable Meshech Weare, Esq's. Letter, to be laid before Congress, dated 20th June 1781.

7th. Messrs Duane and Ezra L. Hommedieu's Memorial and Prayer to Congress, of the 3d Day of August 1781; together with Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley's, Esq's Remonstrance to Congress, dated

Sept. 22, 1780.

8th. Resolve of Congress, dated 17th August 1781.

9th. Written Proposals to Committee of Congress dated August 18th, 1781.

10th. Questions proposed to the Agents of Vermont, by the Committee of Congress, August 18th, 1781.

11th. The foregoing Questions, with the Answers annexed.

12th. Resolutions of Congress, of the 20th August 1781.

The further Consideration of the Report being referred, adjourned 'till To morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

October 17th, Met according to Adjournment.

The Committee proceeded to the Consideration of the Resolutions of Congress, of the 20th Day of August aforesaid, and other Papers mentioned in the Report of said Agents, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That in the Opinion of this Committee, the Legislature cannot comply with the Resolutions last referred to, without destroying the Foundation of the present universal Harmony and Agreement that subsists in this State, and a Violation of solemn Compact, entered into by Articles of Union and Confederation.

The further Consideration of the Report being postponed, adjourned to nine o'Clock To morrow Morning.

October 18th.

The Committee having resumed the farther Consideration of the said Report;

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Resolutions of Congress of the 7th and 20th of August last, did by no Means comport with, but entirely preclude, any propositions made by our Agents; it is therefore the Opinion of this Committee, that the Propositions made by our Agents to the Committee of Congress, on the 18th of August last, ought not in future to be considered as binding on the Part of Vermont.

Resolved, That it be, and is hereby recommended to

731
the Legislature of this State, that their Thanks be returned to their Honorable Agents, for their good Services in Behalf of this State, on the Business of their late Mission to the Congress of the United States of America.

And this Committee recommend to the Legislature of this State, to remain firm in the Principles on which the State of Vermont first assumed Government; and to hold the Articles of Union, which connect each Part of the State, with the other, inviolate.

And for the further Information and Satisfaction of the Honorable the Congress, and the World, do recommend to the Legislature, to publish the following Articles, which respect the Admission of Vermont into the federal Union, viz:

Article 1st. "That the Independence of the State of Vermont be held sacred, and that no Member of the Legislature shall give his Vote, or otherwise use his Endeavours to obtain any Act or Resolution of Assembly that shall endanger the Existence, Independence, and well being of said State, by referring its Independency to the Arbitrement of any Power."

Article 2^d. "That whenever this State becomes united with the American States, and there shall then be any Dispute between this, and any of the United States, respecting Boundary Lines, the Legislature of the State of Vermont will then (as they have ever proposed) submit to Congress, or such other Tribunal as may be mutually agreed on, for the Settlement of any such Disputes."

And that the impartial World may be fully convinced of the good and laudable Disposition of Vermont, and of her Readiness to comply with any reasonable Proposal for the Adjustment of the Disputes respecting Boundary Lines between this and the neighbouring States of New Hampshire and

New York; this Committee further recommend to the Legislature, to make the following Proposals to the said States of New Hampshire and New York respectively:

That whereas Disputes have arisen between the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, relative to jurisdictional Boundary Lines, &c. the Legislature of Vermont, being willing and desirous, as much as in them lies, to promote Unity and good Accord between the two States, — Do propose to the State of New Hampshire, that all Matters relating to the aforesaid Dispute, shall be submitted to five or more judicious, unprejudiced Persons, who shall be mutually agreed on, elected and chosen by a Committee of Legislature, on the Part of each State respectively. — And that the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, do pledge their Faith, each to the other, that the Decision had by the Persons so elected, being made up in writing, signed by the President of such Commissioners, and delivered to the Secretary of each State respectively, shall be held sacredly binding on each of the said States of New Hampshire and Vermont. And that Proposals of the same Tenor be also made to the Legislature of New York.

And this Committee do further recommend, that nine Persons elected Commissioners by the Legislature on the Part of Vermont, to treat with Commissioners to be elected on the Part of New Hampshire and New York respectively, for the adjusting the aforesaid jurisdictional Boundary Lines; and that they be commissioned by His Excellency the Governor, and the Faith of this State be by him pledged, in behalf of the State, that the Decision thus had, shall in future be held as sacredly binding on the Part of Vermont.

And this Committee do further recommend to the Legislature, that the Proceedings of this Committee be officially transmitted to the Congress of the United States, and that they be enclosed in a Letter, under the Signature of His Excellency the Governor, and directed to the President of Congress.

231
And this Committee do further advise the Legislature to recommend to the Authority in every part of the State to remain firm in the Support of Government, and the punctual Execution of the Laws; notwithstanding the various Measures taken to create Divisions and Discord.

The Commissioners chosen for the above purpose; The Honorable Elisha Payne, Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, & Peter Cleott Esqrs; Daniel Jones Esq; Col. Gideon Warren, Phineas Whiteside Esq; Col. Joseph Calamell & Ezra Styles Esq;

Resolved, That it be an Instruction to the said Commissioners, that they prepare and make the necessary Defence in the Premises; and that they introduce the said Matters to New Hampshire and New York, in such a way as to them shall appear best.

October 19, 1781.

Voted, That this Committee be dissolved.

(Signed) Beza. Woodward, Clerk of Committee.

State of Vermont.

In General Assembly, Charlestown, October 19th, 1781.

The aforesaid Report being read, and the Question being put, it was unanimously approved and accepted.

(Signed) Roswell Hopkins, Clerk.

In Council, October 19th 1781.

Read and Concurred.

(Sign'd) Joseph Fay, Sec'y.

October 30th, 1781.

The preceding is a true Copy of an Act of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, lodged in the Secretary's Office of the said State.

(Sign'd) Micah Townshend, Sec'y.

November 14th, 1781.

The foregoing, transcribed, and carefully examined, by the Command of his Excellency the Governor.

Thomas Tolman P. Sec'y.